

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /113 W
-----180609Z 083859 /10

R 171600Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6730
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1090

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ERNG, CS
SUBJECT: STATUS OF COSTA RICAN GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: SAN JOSE 5680, 12/1/76

1. ALEX MURRAY, PRESIDENT OF THE COSTA RICAN ELECTRICITY INSTITUTE (ICE) ADVISED THAT IADB FINANCING HAD BEEN SECURED, AND ACCORDINGLY ICE WOULD MOVE AHEAD WITH THE SECOND PHASE OF THEIR GEOTHERMAL PROJECT. PHASE TWO CONSISTS OF DRILLING 4,000 METERS OF EXPLORATORY HOLES OF SUFFICIENT DIAMETER AND IN A MANNER TO ASSURE THAT IF PROMISING STEAM AREAS ARE FOUND DURING THIS SECOND EXPLORATORY DRILLING PHASE, THEY CAN BE EXPLOITED. PRESENT SCHEDULE CALLS FOR DRILLING TO BEGIN BY DECEMBER 1, 1977. THIS IS, IN PART, CAUSED BY THE INABILITY TO PREDICT WHEN THE COSTA RICAN ASSEMBLY WILL APPROVE THE IADB LOAN, PARTICULARLY IN AN ELECTION YEAR, PLUS THE FACT THAT DRILLING CONTRACT WILL BE LET BY PUBLIC BID, ALWAYS A UNCLASSIFIED

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SOMEWHAT LENGTHY PROCESS IN COSTA RICA.

2. REFTTEL MAY HAVE GIVEN A MISLEADING IMPRESSION OF ROGERS ENGINEERING'S ROLE IN ICE'S GEOTHERMAL PROJECT. ROGERS IS ACTING AS A CONSULTANT TO ICE, AND HAS NOT, AND WILL NOT, BECOME INVOLVED IN ACTUAL DRILLING OR EXPLOITATION WORK. ACCORDING TO MURRAY, ROGERS WILL

ASSIST ICE IN SUCH AREAS AS WRITING THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE BID FOR DRILLING SERVICES AND EVALUATING THE OFFERS SUBMITTED.

3. GIVEN THE FOREGOING, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT U.S. EQUIPMENT WOULD BE ON SITE IN COSTA RICA BY OCTOBER, 1977. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE INTERESTING AND USEFUL, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN OTHER COUNTRIES, FOR ICE AND ROGERS TO GIVE A "CASE STUDY" TYPE OF PRESENTATION ON THE PROGRESS TO DATE IN ICE'S GEOTHERMAL PROGRAM, IF THEY ARE DISPOSED TO DO SO. ICE HAS APPROACHED THEIR GEOTHERMAL PROJECT IN THEIR USUAL CAREFUL, THOROUGH, PROFESSIONAL MANNER AND THIS MAY PROVIDE SOME USEFUL INSIGHTS FOR OTHER SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS.

4. MURRY ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD USED THE OCCASION OF A RECENT MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN THE ELECTRICITY FIELD TO INFORMALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY SOUND OUT HIS C.A. COUNTERPARTS ON THE IDEA OF A GEOTHERMAL SEMINAR. HE STATED THEY WERE VERY RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GEOTHERMAL ENERGY, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Subject: STATUS OF COSTA RICAN GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: BEXP, ENRG, CS
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